
 A NEW SPECIES OF CERION.

 BY W. H. DALL.

Mr. J. A. Stevenson, of Palm Beach, Florida, recently collected a number of land shells in the Bahamas, adding several species already known from other localities but not from Nassau, to the Bahaman fauna. Among those obtained from Long or Berry Island, was a form of *Cerion* which appears to be undescribed and is related to the group of *C. scalarinum* Pfr., called *Umbois* by Maynard.

Cerion Stevensoni n. sp.

Shell very variable in general form, but in general roughly cylindrical, with the nuclear whorls as it were jammed down into the blunt summit of the cylinder, with the base carinate at the periphery, where the ribs cease, and below that constricted; whorls 8-10, nuclear ones nearly smooth, gradually developing fine transverse ribbing with subequal interspaces; these become stronger, with a strong revolving thread behind the suture; at the third whorl then the diameter of the shell suddenly increases the sides develop strong transverse rather irregular ribbing with wider interspaces, the ribs extending from the suture to the basal keel, beyond which they rarely extend; the base beyond the keel is constricted, rudely transversely wrinkled, inside the verge of the umbilicus centrifugally impressed and axially deeply perforate; aperture very variable in shape, with a broad, flattish, rather thin reflected margin; there is a parietal short lamina centrally situated and strong, but no trace of an axial fold; color light brownish or ashy to white, the whole surface sharply spirally striated, the striae sometimes crowded, sometimes distant. Alt. of two specimens, A, 27; B, 21; diam. A, 12; B, 14.5 mm.

Types, U. S. Nat. Museum; specimens in Stearns' collection, Detroit, Mich., and Mr. Stevenson's collection.

The entire absence of the axial fold is notable.

 VALLONIA PULCHELLA MÜLL., IN LOS ANGELES AND ELSEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA, ETC.

 BY ROBERT E. C. STEARNS.

For several months past, I have been making a careful search for *slugs*, in the interest of Dr. Pilsbry, with poor results, as these ani-

mals, for some reason, are of rare occurrence on my grounds; neither my own nor those of my immediate neighbors containing any. About the middle of last August, I made my regular examination of certain bricks, bats and pieces of wood, that have been turned over for the hundredth time, with the usual experience in the way of *slugs*, but had my reward by finding, to my great surprise, a large number, over a hundred, of *Vallonia pulchella*. This species has not before been reported as occurring in Los Angeles or elsewhere in this region. Many species and some varieties of the general *Vallonia* form have been made by Dr. Sterki and others, based on the American aspects of this genus. Dr. Pilsbry, referring to the examples sent to him from my premises, says it is our "old friend pure and simple," and further remarks that "Curiously we did not find it in the Great Smokies, but Ashmun gets some costate forms (not *pulchella*) in Arizona and New Mexico." Raymond obtained one specimen of the var. *costata* in Bloody Canyon, east side of Mono Pass, at an altitude of about 8000 feet, in 1889. Mr. R. C. McGregor,¹ collected *V. pulchella* "in a yard at base of rose bushes," at Redding, in Shasta county.

In Dr. Cooper's catalogue of West North American shells, he gives the distribution as "circumboreal," south to Mono county, Cal., and subsequently, "Donner Lake, and near Truckee," in the California Sierras. Mr. Button informs me that he found it plentiful some years ago in Mountain View Cemetery, near Oakland; that specimens from that locality "are light-colored, living on white marble copings." Mr. Hemphill states that he has "found *V. pulchella* at Julian City, San Diego Co., and at several other places in California, Oregon and Washington." The late A. W. Crawford, according to Mr. Raymond, collected it at "San Jose," in Santa Clara county.

It will be seen by the above that this pretty little snail is quite widely dispersed in California, as well as elsewhere in the Pacific States. In Pilsbry and Johnson's list² of American Land Shells, etc., it is credited to "Montana eastward, from Canada to, or nearly to, the Gulf of Mexico. Europe."

¹ See NAUTILUS, XII, Sept., 1898, p. 60, and Mrs. Williamson in same for Oct., 1898, pp. 71-2.

² Philadelphia, April, 1889, p. 7.

The æsthetic taste exhibited by *Vallonia pulchella* is noteworthy; from under the *Roses* of Shasta county in the north, to the *Verbena* beds of Los Angeles in the south, and among the *marbles* of Mountain View, in Alameda county, suggests a refinement of discrimination in this "mere atom of humble life," that would furnish a good text for a sermon.

Mr. Button, in his note to me referring to the cemetery habitat, writes, "Query—Brought from the East in plants?" As to the occurrence of *V. pulchella* in my grounds, I am wholly at sea, for no plant forms, from the neighborhood or elsewhere, have been introduced by me for a long time, and these little snails have appeared in numbers, *within six weeks*.

In considering the hypsometric distribution, the altitude of Donner Lake is, according to Gannett,¹ from whom these various elevations are quoted, 6095 feet; Truckee 5820 and Redding 555 feet; Julian 4500 and Los Angeles about 300 feet, while the Mountain View Cemetery grounds are probably slightly less than the Los Angeles figure.

Los Angeles, California, Sept. 12, 1900.

AN HOUR ON THE GREAT RAFT.

BY LORRAINE S. FRIERSON.

While the readers of NAUTILUS are waiting to hear of the results of the exploration of the Great Smokies by Ferriss, Walker & Co., perhaps they would like to hear about a trip to the Great Raft of the Red River.

This raft of logs was at one time 150 miles long, but it has long since been removed from the main river. There still remains in an arm of the river about five miles of the old raft. This raft is not continuous, but consists of separate pieces from a mile long down to fifty yards. These logs are in some places only one log deep, *i. e.*, the surface of the water is covered by a single layer of logs.

In other places, however, the river is completely filled with a solid mass of logs from ten to fifteen feet deep. These logs are covered

¹Dict. of Altitudes in the U. S., 3d Ed., U. S. Geol. Survey, 1899.